



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT:** FIRE DISPATCH CHANNEL  
EXPANSION

**FROM:** Peter Jensen

**DATE:** May 24, 2006

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Approved	/s/	Date	05/26/06
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## **BACKGROUND**

During the 2006-2007 Communications Capital Budget Hearing, the Mayor requested further explanation as to the status of the Fire Dispatch Channel Expansion project. The City of San José Fire dispatch radio system had been receiving unacceptable interference from the City of South San Francisco Fire dispatch radio system because both systems were using the same frequency.

## **ANALYSIS**

To address the unacceptable radio interference described above, usage of radio frequencies was reviewed. A San Jose Fire data frequency (155.025 MHz) was identified as no longer being used for data and, therefore, was available to be utilized as a solution to address this radio interference issue.

By reprogramming all portable, mobile, and base station radios to utilize the 155.025 MHz frequency, the radio interference problem has been resolved. General Services staff completed this project during the current fiscal year and is currently planning for the next step in radio upgrades.

The next step for the City of San Jose Fire dispatch radio system is to move from a simplex “radio-to-radio only” system to a repeater “radio-to-City-wide-repeater-to-radio” system. This enhancement will allow firefighters to communicate over a wider area of the city. A new input frequency is necessary to achieve this transition. A frequency search is currently being performed. This project is expected to be completed during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

In addition, General Services Department staff is partnering with Fire Department communications representatives to address the current and future communications needs by analyzing the existing fire radio communication infrastructure and working to ensure its best utilization.

## **COORDINATION**

This MBA has been coordinated with the Fire Department.

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/s/

PETER JENSEN

Director of General Services

For questions please contact Peter Jensen, Director of General Services at 938-2025.